

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE - ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: MEAT MARKET SITUATION

REF: YOUR RECENT TELECON WITH DR. OYLOE

1. THE MARKET FOR BEEF HAS STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY IN GERMANY DURING THE PREVIOUS 2 TO 3 MONTHS. PRESENTLY FORE QUARTERS ARE PRICED AT ABOUT DM 4.50 TO 4.30/KG COMPARED TO DM 3.90 2 MONTHS AGO. MINOR PRICE DECLINES HOWEVER ARE EXPECTED FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WHICH WILL CONTINUE INTO JAN. AND FEB. OF NEXT YEAR WHEN THE MEAT HELD IN PRIVATE STORAGE IS RETURNED TO THE MARKET.

2. IN THE EC ABOUT 48,000 M.T. OF BEEF IS PRESENTLY HELD IN PRIVATE STOCKS OF WHICH ABOUT 16,000 M.T. ARE HELD IN THE FRG. THIS QUANTITY IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE FURTHER. THE SUBSIDY, ACCORDING TO THE TRADE, PRESENTLY AMOUNTS TO DM 1.86/KG. THIS SUFFICIENTLY COVERS CAPITAL AND STORAGE COST AND ASSURES SOME PROFIT.

3. MEAT IMPORTS FROM IRELAND HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AND CONSIST OF BOTH MEAT FOR PROCESSING AND TO A SOMEWHAT LESSER EXTENT QUALITY CUTS FOR THE FRESH MARKET. DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1 THROUGH SEPT. 14,

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1975, ACCORDING TO TRADE SOURCES, 25,446 M.T. OF BEEF

WERE IMPORTED FROM IRELAND COMPARED TO 2,934 DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1974.

4. THERE WERE CONFLICTING VIEWS AMONG THE GERMAN TRADE WHICH IS THE MORE PROFITABLE FOR THE IRISH TO SEND BEEF TO U.S. OR TO GERMANY, PARTICULARLY AS PRICES FOR SHIPMENTS TO GERMANY FLUCTUATE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE IMPORTERS EXPECTS THAT SHIPMENTS TO GERMANY WILL BE DRASTICALLY CUT BECAUSE OF THE SEPT. 12 INCREASE IN EXPORT SUPPORT FOR SHIPMENTS OF IRISH BEEF TO THE U.S. THE IRISH ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED TO BUILD A CONTINUOUS RELIABLE MARKET IN GERMANY AND WILL RESERVE THE NECESSARY QUANTITIES FOR GERMANY. FURTHERMORE, THE U.S. AND THE GERMAN MARKET REQUIRE DIFFERENT QUALITIES. THOUGH SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. MAY BE UP SOMEWHAT, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL INCREASE DRASTICALLY.

5. GERMAN MEAT HANDLERS ARE REPORTEDLY VERY ACTIVE IN GAINING ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN THE IRISH MEAT PRODUCTION BY FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS WITH MEAT HANDLERS AND PACKERS. HILLENBRAND

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